

REMARKS

The application includes claims 2-4, 6-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68 and 70-74 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner indicated that claims 9-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74 contain allowable subject matter.

The examiner objected to claim 6 because of informalities.

The examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Allain et al. (U.S. Patent 6,449,259) in view of applicant's allegedly admitted prior art (AAPA) further in view of Amir et al. (U.S. 6,711,166).

The examiner rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Allain in view of AAPA and Amir et al., further in view of Dalrymple et al. (U.S. Patent 6,826,272).

The applicants cancel claims 2-4 and 6-8 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 9-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74 after entering this amendment.

The applicants make the above amendments without prejudice or disclaimer and to further prosecution. Accordingly, the applicants do not intend to surrender claimed subject matter by submission of the above amendments and do not add new matter. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants acknowledge the allowed subject matter and thank Examiner Nguyen for allowing claims 9-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74.

Claim Objections

The examiner objected to claim 6 because of informalities.

Claim 6 is cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Allain et al. (U.S. Patent 6,449,259) in view of applicant's allegedly admitted prior art (AAPA) further in view of Amir et al. (U.S. 6,711,166).

Claims 2-4 and 6 are cancelled.

The examiner rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Allain in view of AAPA and Amir et al., further in view of Dalrymple *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,826,272).

Claims 7-8 are cancelled.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims 9-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 73552

Respectfully submitted,

STOLOWITZ FORD COWGER LLP


Michelle C. Craig
Reg. No. 52,776

STOLOWITZ FORD COWGER LLP
621 SW Morrison Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 224-2170